



Occupational Diploma

April 11, 2014

Work completed:

■ Reviewed models used in in other states:

- New York
- Mississippi
- Florida
- North Carolina

■ Task Force Meetings:

- Worked through expectations
 - » Not a regular diploma
 - » Certification that will enhance employment opportunities for students not on track to receive a regular diploma
 - » Will increase opportunities for students not decrease

Task Force Meetings

- Developed “Soft Skills” required for student success
 - Interpersonal & broadly applicable
 - Ex. Teamwork, responsibility
- Development of “Hard Skills” required for student success
 - Hard skills are a students specific skill set to perform a task
 - Ex. Typing, math skills so the student has increased opportunity in work settings
- Determined the skills underlying the 21st Century Skills (business)
- Determined Experience required (see work experience documentation)
- Evaluated skills for: Critical, Preferred, and Enhancing
 - Agreed on all
- Developed Policy (refer to policy change)

Question Considered

- **Why would a high school want to offer an occupational diploma?**
 - Working to raise expectations and increase outcomes for all students
 - The occupational diploma is another reflection of the work currently around increasing outcomes for at-risk students. The occupational diploma is a natural fit around current instructional shifts:
 - RTI²
 - Instructionally Appropriate IEPs
 - Programming and assessment for the 1% population National Center and State Collaborative (NCSC)
 - Partnership for Assessment of Readiness for College and Careers (PARCC)
 - It is an opportunity for students to obtain instruction and skills required to earn a wage, live as independently as possible, engage with peers socially, and be productive tax-paying citizens.

Tool Developed: Skills, Knowledge, and Experience Mastery Assessment (SKEMA)

- **SKEMA (Refer to SKEMA tool provided)**

- An agreed upon, simple, easily to manage documentation tool for teachers and students to document progress toward measurable goals
- **The tool reflects the work over 4 meetings with the task force**

- **Required:**

- Attendance at school
- Attendance at work
- Punctual at school and work
- Complies with health, safety and emergency procedures at school and work
 - If students do not have these skills then they will not be considered for the occupational diploma

- **Critical:**

- **Critical** skills, knowledge, and experience are the required level of mastery to achieve an occupational diploma.

- **Preferred/Enhancing:**

- Additional skills, experience and Knowledge the student mastered that will increase opportunity for employment

Next Steps

- Working with the ARC to connect with businesses for additional input on the SKEMA (completed by July)
- Pilot schools need to be identified and pilot next year in at least one district
- 2nd reading in July at the State Board of Education
- Pilot data reviewed
- Framework finalized